

Important Reminder

This is a friendly reminder regarding the proper disposal of used batteries. At LBNL, batteries (e.g., D-cell, AA-cell, AAA-cell, Hearing aid type, button cell, lead-acid, nickel-cadmium, lithium-ion, nickel metal hydride, zinc, and silver oxide) can only be disposed of in the green battery collection buckets located conveniently throughout the Lab in each building.

These green buckets are to be used for battery disposal ONLY. Please do not use these green buckets to dispose of trash, e-waste, universal waste, hazardous waste or anything other than batteries. Waste Management has recently noticed an increase of items other than batteries, being deposited within the green buckets. Items such as light bulbs, mercury thermometers and other hazardous waste can pose extreme health risks to those within the area of the buckets as well as the Waste Management personnel that must handle the battery buckets during disposal. Additionally, this practice is non-compliant with regulatory requirements and will require cleanup efforts that can be costly. So please dispose of all items safely and compliantly.

To properly dispose of batteries you need to use the electrical tape provided on the green battery bucket handle to tape over the terminals of any battery which has the potential for shorting out (9-volt, lantern (6 and 12-volt), lithium, lead-acid, nickel-cadmium batteries). Direct contact of battery terminals could cause a fire or health related issues. Commonly used lithium, 6, 9, 12-volt type batteries are the easiest types of batteries to short circuit as well.

Unbroken, non-leaking, large batteries, such as uninterruptable power supply (UPS) or automobile batteries can be sent to salvage (B79) through a transportation work request with a signed TAF form. Broken, leaking large batteries should be managed as hazardous waste in your Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA).

Drill motor batteries and other rechargeable tool batteries normally can be returned to the vendor of which they were purchased. In many cases, it is as simple as placing the old battery in the package the new battery was shipped in and returning the package back to the vendor. If they are not returnable, they should be managed in green battery buckets with the terminals taped.

Help keep us all SAFE and GREEN by following these simple battery disposal instructions. For questions about this subject or other hazardous/universal/radioactive waste, please contact the Waste Management Services Team Generator Assistance.

